

A. T. STEWART'S BODY.

Details of the Negotiations with the Grave Robbers.

HISTORY OF THE CONSULTATIONS.

Romaine's Remarkable Letters to the New York Lawyer.

SUPERINTENDENT WALLING ON "ABSURD" STORIES.

The Herald's Revelations Fully Confirmed.

The exclusive announcement in the HERALD on Wednesday last of the failure of all efforts to recover the remains of the late A. T. Stewart, with the details of the negotiations between the body snatchers' lawyer, has since been followed by confirmatory statements in other leading journals. The body of the great merchant prince has not been recovered, nor have the authorities on the one side or Mr. Hilton, on the other succeeded in laying their hands upon the ghouls who continue to defy them. The HERALD has shown during the past few days how these grave robbers play fast and loose not only with our boasted police force, but with the shrewd and intelligent man who thought at one time he could capture them all within a few days. For five months the HERALD, aware of these facts, has been waiting for the "issue which was sure to come." The public, led astray by false information, had comforted itself with the thought that the remains of Mr. Stewart had at last been quietly returned to the soil of the city he loved.

The HERALD's despatch from Montreal yesterday added amazement to indignation, and in order to show the public the exact state of affairs upon which previous information was based the HERALD now adds a succinct account of the curious negotiations with the grave robbers.

ROMAINE OPENS NEGOTIATIONS.

As was stated in the history of the negotiations published last Wednesday, Mr. Patrick H. Jones received on the 26th of January last a letter dated Montreal, January 24, by letter carrier. A few hours before the receipt of the letter a package was left at his office, No. 150 Nassau street, containing a screw, caps, etc., and a piece of velvet, which, as Mr. Jones was informed by said letter, was taken from the coffin of Mr. Stewart. The following is a literal copy of the letter:—

"MONTREAL, Canada, January 24, 1879.

"HON. P. H. JONES, Counsellor, New York City:—

"Sir—Surprising as it may seem that such a being exists, nevertheless friends in your city assure me that you are an honest lawyer. Your public career and private character strengthen that belief to such extent that I remit herewith a retainer of \$100. Having thus established the relation of counsel and client I request your professional assistance in the following matter:—

"That no doubt of my sincerity or ability to perform what I promise may exist, either in your mind or the minds of those more directly interested, I entrust temporarily to you, as such counsel, the articles which accompany this letter. I am prompted to this for the reason that hundreds of offers of a similar character from irresponsible persons have been addressed to the immediate family of the late Alexander T. Stewart. The unbroken silence maintained by me until now was prompted by a desire to allow Judge Hilton to exhaust every means and pursue every clue that promised success, and thus himself be convinced of how fruitless were his labors.

"That he had been as tireless in the search as he would be remorseless in the prosecution, were the perpetrators discovered, is known to all. But, sir, he labors to no purpose. The press, the people and the police have been beaten from the start. Their theories and the progress of the pursuit were daily published in the New York papers, and, of course, read by me. Let me assure you, sir, that there never was a moment when success was possible.

"The remains were taken before twelve o'clock on the night of the 6th, and not three o'clock on the morning of the 7th of November. They were not taken away in a carriage, but a grocer's wagon. They were not taken to any house near the graveyard, but to one near 116th street. They were then enclosed in a zinc-lined trunk, previously prepared, and left on the early morning train. They went to Plattsburg and from there to the Hamilton; and they were buried. Except that the eyes have disappeared the flesh is as firm and the features as natural as the day of interment, and can, therefore, be instantly identified. The enclosed piece of paper is exactly the size of the piece of velvet taken from the coffin, while the small scrap sent you will prove it to be of the same piece as that on the coffin.

"If any additional proofs are required the plate will be sent you upon inserting the following 'Personal' in the New York HERALD:—Canada, send P. H. Jones.

"One word more. If you decline to act a friend will call for the retainer sent you. If you accept confer at once with Rev. Dr. Ryle, Mr. Clinch, Judge Hilton or Mrs. Stewart. Tell them not to attempt to trace the writer of this, as it will result in nothing, for I know, and you know, that I am perfectly safe from extradition; and as no man on earth except myself holds any of the proofs of knowledge where the remains are buried they never can get to me. When you are satisfied that the relatives of Mr. Stewart will talk business insert this personal in the New York HERALD:—Canada, will do business. Counsel."

"Then you will hear from me again and be referred to my representative.

"Very respectfully, HENRY G. ROMAINE.

"P. S.—To insure safe delivery of proofs I send them by a special messenger."

CONSULTATIONS WITH THE POLICE.

After consultation with an excellent lawyer and friend it was thought best to lay the matter before the Police Department, and therefore, on the 27th of January, Mr. Jones placed in the hands of the Superintendent of Police of this city the letter and the package above referred to, taking the receipt of the Superintendent, of which the following is a copy:—

"POLICE DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK, OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT, No. 500 MULLENBURY STREET, NEW YORK, Jan. 27, 1879.

"Received of Patrick H. Jones, a package containing one screw, one small piece of velvet and four screw caps, supposed and said by a letter to be articles taken from the coffin which contained the remains of the late Alexander T. Stewart.

"GEORGE W. WALLING, Superintendent of Police."

At the same time the Superintendent requested Mr. Jones to prepare a "Personal" for the New York HERALD, in accordance with the request, or rather direction, contained in said letter. This was done, and the communication was inserted in the HERALD by the Superintendent in its issue of January 29. The following was the "Personal":—

CANADA.—SEND P.

COUNSEL.

The letter above referred to also contained an irregularly cut piece of paper, said to be of the same dimensions as the piece of velvet taken from the coffin of Mr. Stewart upon the night of the robbery. The small piece of velvet was claimed in the letter to be of the same fabric as the velvet upon the coffin.

THE COFFIN PLATE.

In response to the "Personal" of January 29 Mr. Jones received by express from Boston the coffin plate, together with a letter of advice by mail, which he also delivered to the Superintendent of Police, taking his receipt therefor as follows:—

"POLICE DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK, No. 500 MULLENBURY STREET, NEW YORK, Feb. 1, 1879.

"Received of General Jones, a package of articles that

FAC-SIMILE OF THE LETTER ADVISING THE DESPATCH OF THE COFFIN PLATE.

Boston Mass

JAN 31st

Hon P.H. Jones

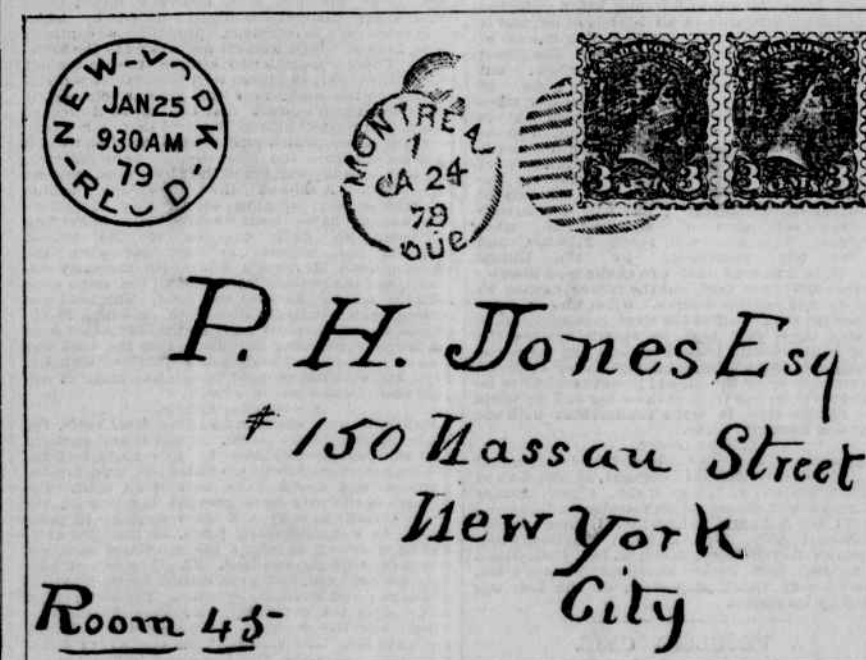
Counsel, N.Y. City

Immediately upon the arrival of HERALD containing Personal I decided to express the Plate from this City, AND thus AVOID the discovery AND publicity which would certainly follow the examination of the package by the customs officials of the Dominion. You will doubtless receive it tomorrow. You will at once confer with the authorized representatives of Mrs Stewart AND permit them to satisfy themselves of its genuineness. Having done that you will await further instructions which will be forwarded after the insertion of the second Personal. CANADA. Will do business.

You are specially requested to maintain the strictest secrecy. AND you can assure Judge Hilton that any business done with me will never be known by mortal man

Yours and c—
Henry G. Romaine

FAC-SIMILE OF THE ENVELOPE WHICH CONTAINED ROMAINE'S LETTER OF JAN. 24.



The New York post mark is for convenience placed on the face of the envelope. On the original, of course, it is on the right hand corner at the back of the envelope.

he may be prepared to make—even the lawyer it necessary."

"I have written a letter to Judge Hilton, a copy of which you are welcome to take—in fact, I mean it for an open letter. I wish him to understand that, even if he is a rich man, I will not allow him to defame me."

"Judge Hilton says the original correspondence and the copies are written on the same paper. How about that?"

"Whether it is on the same paper or not I leave you to judge for yourself. You now see both."

Here the General exhibited one of the original letters received from Romaine and a copy of it. The paper did not seem to the reporter to be the same.

"Another thing I will tell you," added the General. "In a letter dated February 28, 1879, from Montreal, this man Romaine says to me, 'I will forward facsimiles of all my letters to you,' and this he did. I presume he did this to give me proof of his being the only writer, the originals as a general thing having been forwarded from different places. There is no need of my saying anything more. You have all the full details. With Judge Hilton, as I said before, my letter explains all that is necessary for the present. To explain the truth is the main thing I seek, and have him try hard, now that he has acted in this way, to make him speak. The original letters you have seen, and also the envelopes; you will notice the postmarks and the stamps on them. Now, they may have been written in New York, or Heaven knows where; I am sure I don't. I simply know that they were brought to my office by a letter carrier. My knowledge as an ex-postmaster gives me every reason to believe that they passed through the New York Post Office in proper shape, and I wish very much that you would call on Postmaster James and ask him if he does not think the same. Judge Hilton's assertion that the original letters and the copies were on the same paper I presume meant that they never came from these different places, but were manufactured in New York. As I said before, I know no more of that matter than you, but certainly there are the letters and there are the envelopes."

GENERAL JONES TO JUDGE HILTON.

The following is the open letter to Judge Hilton

referred to by General Jones in the above interview:—

"No. 150 NASSAU STREET, NEW YORK, August 16, 1879.

"HON. HENRY HILTON:—

"Sir—In regard to the Stewart matter, which has occupied the attention of some readers of the newspapers, I understand from a reported interview that you state that I know more of the matter and the personnel of the thieves than has been printed.

"Be kind enough to assert squarely what you mean. It may lead to judicial investigation. If so I say that I will not commence any civil action against you for defamation, and will not seek any other redress than to make you tell the truth if I can.

"This is an open letter.

"PATRICK H. JONES."

MR. WALLING'S DISBELIEF.

Superintendent Walling was called upon yesterday afternoon and was asked to give his opinion of the Montreal despatch published in the HERALD, and he did so bluntly, as follows:—

"The story is absurd. It is not possible to do it. If the box smelt so badly at Montreal it must have emitted odors also at Plattsburg. I received the despatches quoted in the HERALD to-day and showed them to Judge Hilton. We came to the conclusion it was useless spending money, sending a man there, as the time was too short to have got the body to that point. There may have been some smuggled goods taken there in a box, but not the body of Mr. Stewart. It was stolen from here during the night of the 6th and 7th, and could not have been got to Montreal by the time set down. I have not the despatches I received. I left them with Judge Hilton."

IS THE SUPERINTENDENT MISTAKEN?

It will be noticed that Superintendent Walling asserts that the body was taken away from the vault in St. Mark's churchyard on the night of the 6th and 7th, and that it "must have been taken" to Plattsburg, if it was taken there, "as freight." He asserts, too, that it was useless to send a detective there, "as the time was too short to have got that body to that point." It will be remembered that it

was stated in the story published in the HERALD last Wednesday that Romaine asserted that the body was taken away "before midnight" of November 6, and that it was placed in a zinc-lined trunk prepared for it. From the churchyard it was conveyed in a wagon to a place in 116th street, Harlem. From New York to Plattsburg is a journey by the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company Railroad (Champlain division) of eleven hours. Now supposing one of the robbers to have gone on the usual morning train to Plattsburg and taken the zinc-lined trunk with him as personal luggage he and the trunk would have arrived at Plattsburg on the evening of the 7th of November, say nine or ten o'clock at the latest. This would give him an entire night and an entire day to get his luggage to Montreal, which is distant from Plattsburg by the most direct route only sixty miles. What was the size of the zinc-lined trunk no one as yet knows; to Morris, the watchman, who saw it taken out of the canal boat, it seemed like a box about three feet wide by six feet long. When it was taken out he says it was after eight o'clock at night—at a time, in fact, when it would be rather difficult for any man who had to keep at a respectful distance to accurately measure a box or trunk. However, it may have been deemed a matter of security by the robbers to put the zinc-lined trunk, described by Romaine as the receptacle of the remains, into a large box to prevent the trunk itself from being crushed under the coal in the canal boat. Mr. Walling, assuming that the body was sent to Plattsburg as freight and was not taken as personal luggage, asserts that it could not have reached Montreal by the 9th of November. All that need be said on this point is that the body was stolen on the night of the 6th of November, before midnight; that Romaine says it was sent from New York by the early train from the Grand Central Depot to Plattsburg; that Plattsburg is but eleven hours from New York by rail, and that the canal boat that is supposed to have taken it to Montreal was towed there by a steamboat and not by horses, and that the boat, according to the Montreal despatch, made a "fast trip." Evidently Mr. Walling has an idea that the story from Montreal was to the effect that the body went all the way from New York by canal boat. If that were so his eight days would fit his theory beautifully.

BISHOP ODENHEIMER'S FUNERAL.

The funeral of the late Bishop Odenheimer will take place at St. Mary's Church, Burlington, N. J., to-morrow afternoon, at two o'clock. Bishop Odenheimer, of New Jersey, and others will be present, also a large representation of the clergy and laity of New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania. The dead prelate will be interred in St. Mary's Churchyard, where other members of his family and the remains of Bishop Doane, his predecessor, also lies. No decision was reached yesterday as to pallbearers, but it is likely that the delegates to the General Convention and the Standing Committee will act in this capacity.

MANHATTAN "L" COMPANY.

When the Metropolitan and New York "L" roads were consolidated as the Manhattan Company, William R. Garrison, of the Metropolitan Company, was elected to the position of president. Mr. John Baird to that of general manager and Mr. Jose E. Navarro to that of treasurer of the new corporation. It was learned yesterday that the organization of the Manhattan Company had been completed by the election of the following officers:—Vice President, Mr. Nathan Guilford, of the New York "L" road; Secretary, Mr. F. E. Worcester, of the New York "L" road; Executive and Financial Committee, Mr. Cyrus W. Field, of the New York "L" road, chairman; Messrs. Brewster and Barney, of the New York "L" road, and Messrs. Navarro and Porter, of the Metropolitan "L" road. Mr. Jose E. Navarro, of the Metropolitan "L" road, having resigned the position of treasurer, Mr. John E. Bodie, of the same company, was chosen to fill the place. Mr. B. P. Frink, of the Metropolitan "L" road, was appointed auditor. Mr. H. Redmond was made ticket agent, Mr. A. Stirling, master mechanic, and Mr. Morris K. King, purchasing agent.

It is said, now that the organization of the Manhattan Company has been completed, that a uniform ticket, good for either "L" road, will be issued. It was also stated that the New York "L" road is likely to declare a dividend of two and a half per cent about the 1st of October.

WASHINGTON.

Good Offices Tendered to the South American Belligerents.

INSTRUCTIONS TO OUR MINISTERS.

FROM OUR REGULAR CORRESPONDENT.

WASHINGTON, August 16, 1879.

The important announcement is made, with authority, that our government has instructed Minister Christiani, at Lima, Peru, and Minister Thomas A. Osborn, at Santiago, Chile, to communicate to the governments to which they are accredited that the government of the United States deeply regrets the unhappy condition of affairs existing between Chile and Peru which has led the two nations into open hostilities; and that, while our government does not desire to thrust its mediation upon them, yet such is its regard for the peace and prosperity of both that, should it be mutually desired, we are very ready to use our good offices to secure an honorable settlement of the differences between the belligerent governments, whenever they shall indicate that such friendly services would be accepted, as will bring about an honorable peace. Those instructions were forwarded by the steamer which left New York on the 30th of June and have been communicated to the governments of Peru and Chile. Sufficient time has not yet elapsed for a reply, but there is a reasonable hope on the part of our government that the tender made in the spirit of friendship will lead to an acceptance of our mediation and thus bring about a speedy termination of the war.

INFORMATION RECEIVED IN WASHINGTON.

The attention of the President was called to the facts concerning the causes of the war in the official despatches of our Minister, received last May, and during the latter part of the month additional information was laid before him of such a character as induced the belief that the mediation of a friendly nation would be accepted, and that the United States, more than any other nation, was in a position to make such advances as would be understood in the interest of an honorable termination of the difficulties.

THE VOLUNTEER DIPLOMATIST.

Horace W. Fisher, a merchant of Boston, who is largely interested in the commerce of the United States with Chile, came to Washington in June last, and had an interview with the President and the Secretary of State in reference to our commercial relations with the South American republics, and, as it was understood that he intended leaving for Chile the latter part of that month, he was selected to bear official letters to our Ministers and Consuls in Chile and Peru. He is spoken of as a very wealthy gentleman, of large and influential acquaintance on the Pacific coast of South America, and understands and fully reflects the sentiments of our government in its desire to promote a better understanding between the hostile sections. He has not, however, any official relation with our government and no special mission to accomplish, so far as the United States are concerned. It is, however, true that he has in extensive acquaintance in Chile, his personal friendships, it is said, being among the most eminent statesmen in that country. He has also credentials to the Chilean Minister of Foreign Affairs, which will undoubtedly give him unusual advantages in presenting the views of our government, already indicated in the instructions to Minister Osborn.

CHILE FIRST.

It is, then, possible that through his intervention the first advances asking for arbitration will come from the Chilean government, in which event it is understood our government will be under obligations to urge with greater friendship upon Peru the importance of accepting the good offices of the United States in its desire to end the unnatural quarrel in which the two nations are engaged.

AN IMPORTANT PRECEDENT.

This offer of mediation on the part of the United States in behalf of the interests of the South American republics is not without a precedent, for it was during the first term of President Grant's administration that the mediation of the United States was offered and accepted, toward relieving Chile, Peru, Bolivia and Ecuador, constituting the allied republics of the Pacific, and Spain from the technical state of war which had existed since the hostilities of 1866. In April, 1878, the treaty was concluded here in Washington through the mediation of the United States, by which a general armistice or truce should continue indefinitely, and under the provisions of the treaty it cannot be broken until three years after a notification by the belligerents, which notification must be served through the government of the United States. It will thus be seen that our government has reason for wishing to promote good will between the two republics now at war, and which have by treaty compact already recognized the friendly offices of our government.

WHAT THE CHILEAN MINISTER SAYS.

The Chilean Minister, Mr. Osta Buraaga, in conversation with the representative of the HERALD this evening, said he was advised of the step which our government had taken, but, of course, could not at present say what the prospects were of the offer of mediation being accepted by his own government. He was not personally acquainted with Mr. Fisher, whose arrival at Peru was announced in to-day's HERALD. But there was no doubt this American gentleman would use every means in his power to promote peace between Chile and Peru, sharing as he does the friendship of prominent American statesmen and an intimacy with the administration which will enable him to speak with certainty of its good intentions. His visit, the Minister thought, might be productive of great good.

GENERAL WASHINGTON DESPATCHES.

WASHINGTON, August 14, 1879.

TREASURY STATISTICS.

The Treasury now holds \$333,917,330 in United States bonds to secure bank circulation. United States bonds deposited for circulation for the week ending to-day, \$3,229,309. United States bonds held for circulation withdrawn during the week ending to-day, \$2,312,000. National bank circulation outstanding—Currency notes, \$298,728,436; gold notes, \$1,443,840. The internal revenue receipts to-day were \$385,726 93 and the customs receipts \$540,126 57. The receipts of national bank notes for redemption for the week ending to-day, as compared with the corresponding period last year, are as follows:—

	1878.	1879.
New York.....	\$886,000	\$612,000
Boston.....	1,486,000	459,000
Philadelphia.....	165,000	45,000
Miscellaneous.....	1,084,000	358,000
Totals.....	\$3,621,000	\$1,513,000

HEADSTONES.

The Secretary of War has ordered the contracts for headstones for soldiers' graves to be awarded to D. W. Whitney, of Troy, N. Y., and Samuel G. Bridges, of Keokuk, Iowa. The price of the headstones furnished and erected will, under these awards, average about \$2 25 each.

CONSULAR REPORTS.

The consular reports prepared for publication at the Department of State showing the state of labor in, and the condition of the workmen of, Europe have passed through the printers' hands and are now ready for distribution. Congress ordered the printing of 15,000 copies of these reports, of which 8,000 copies were for the House of Representatives, 4,000 for the Senate and 3,000 for the Department of State. Senators and Representatives will receive their allotted number of copies by applying at the document rooms of the Senate and House at the Capitol. The Department of State, having only 3,000 for distribution, will endeavor as much as possible to distribute that number among the newspapers, magazines, libraries, State officials, boards of trade, agricultural societies, manufacturers, trade societies, and